certain equipments before the end of the financial year of 1995-96.

Outstanding Dues against Ex-MPs

2568. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL continues to issue bills for rental in respect of telephones which have been disconnected on the grounds of non-payment of dues; and if so, the reasons therefor and the details of rules under which such bills are issued to the subscribers; and

(b) the details of the outstanding dues of more than Rs. 50,000/- against the Ex-Members of Parliament as on 28th February, 1997 and the steps taken to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The bills for rental are sent even after disconnection, since the rental for the intervening period *i.e.* from the date of disconnection to the date of restoration is payable by the subscriber as per Rule 443 of the Indian Telegraph Rules. In case the telephone is permanently closed the rental recovered beyond the date of disconnection is refunded.

(b) The details are given in statement *(see* below). Notices are issued and regular follow up action for recovery is being followed as per the prescribed procedure.

Statement

Details of outstanding dues of more than Rs. 50,000/- against Ex-Members of Parliament as on 28.2.97

SI.	Particular	No. of MPs.	Amount Rs.
1.	VII & VIII Lok Sabha	42	6132363
2.	IX Lok Sabha	30	3169971
3.	X Lok Sabha	190	52680421
4.	Rajya Sabha	58	12514317
	Total	320	74497072

Delay in Telephone Connections in Rourkela Due to Offical Apathy

2569. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the waiting list of General Category registrants for telephones in Rourkela, Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that persons since August, 1996 have not got any telephone connections;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to clear the waiting list; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the corrupt/erring officials/ staff who demand bribes for releasing telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The details of the waiting list of general category